

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-02 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01

NEA-10 CIEP-02 INT-08 SS-20 NSC-10 SPC-03 STR-08

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15

PRS-01 AGR-20 NIC-01 DRC-01 /154 W

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R 170718Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7339

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USMISSION BERLIN

AMCONSUL POZNAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PL, ENRG

SUBJECT: PARTY PLENUM ANNOUNCED

REF: WARSAW 0260

1. ON JANUARY 16 THE WARSAW PRESS ANNOUNCED THAT THE PZPR POLITBIURO HAD CALLED A PLENUM OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR JANUARY 18. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS ANNOUNCEMENTS, THE PLENUM WILL DISCUSS THE PROGRAM OF THE GOVERNMENT FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE FIRST PARTY CONFERENCE OF LATE OCTOBER 1973.

2. COMMENT: WE THINK IT LIKELY THAT THE PLENUM WILL FOCUS LARGEY UPON POSSIBLE STRAINS PLACED ON THE POLISH ECONOMY BY THE INTERNATIONAL OIL CRISIS AND OTHER FACTORS.

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ALTHOUGH THE POLISH-SOVIET TRADE PROTOCOL FOR 1974

ALLEGEDLY ASSURES POLAND OF A SOVIET SUPPLY AT PRE-CRISIS PRICES FOR MOST OF ITS OIL, POLAND STILL MUST SATISFY AT LEAST SOME OF ITS REQUIREMENTS FOR CRUDE OIL AND REFINED PETROLEUM PRODUCTS FROM FREE-WORLD MARKETS AT THE NEW HIGHER PRICES. (IN 1972, FOR EXAMPLE, POLAND IMPORTED 14 PERCENT OF ITS TOTAL PETROLEUM-PRODUCT IMPORTS FROM WESTERN SOURCES). MOREOVER, WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT OTHER PRICE THE SOVIETS EXTRACTED IN EXCHANGE FOR THEIR BARGAIN-BASEMENT OIL. JUDGING BY THE SPEECH OF PREMIER JAROSZEWCZ AT THE OCTOBER PARTY CONFERENCE, THE EXTENSION OF THE FREEZE ON BASIC FOOD PRICES IS A HEAVY STRAIN ON THE 1974 BUDGET. THE ADDED COST THAT UNDOUBTEDLY WILL RESULT FROM THE WORLD ENERGY CRISIS MAY HAVE PUSHED THE SITUATION TO THE POINT AT WHICH A SERIOUS RE-EXAMINATION OF POLAND'S ECONOMIC GAME PLAN IS IN ORDER.

3. THE DECISION TO HOLD THE PLENUM, PROBABLY TAKEN BY THE LEADERSHIP SEVERAL DAYS AGO, ALTHOUGH JUST ANNOUNCED IN CONNECTION WITH THE REPORT ON THE WEEKLY MEETING OF THE POLITBIURO, PROBABLY WAS A FACTOR IN OLSZOWSKI'S CANCELLING HIS TRIP TO INDIA, INDONESIA, AND BANGLADESH. HOWEVER, WE ARE STILL INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE OTHER IMPORTANT MATTERS PENDING THAT PROMPTED OLSZOWSKI TO ABANDON HIS TRAVEL PLANS FOR THE REMAINDER OF JANUARY (SEE REFTEL). IN THAT CONNECTION, THE EMBASSY LEARNED YESTERDAY FROM HAYNES OF SWINDELL-DRESSLER THAT MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE OLECHOWSKI WILL NOT BE ABLE TO MEET WITH PULLMAN CHAIRMAN CASEY IN EARLY FEBRUARY BECAUSE OF OLECHOWSKI'S INVOLVEMENT IN AN "IMPORTANT CONFERENCE". END COMMENT.

DAVIES

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